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DATE: May 21, 2002

TO: EXAMINER SHAMEEM, TC GROUP 1600

COMPANY: United States Patent & Trademark Office

FAX NO.: (703) 746-5116 TEL. NO.: _____

FROM: J. Michael Buchanan/Rebecca L. Blake

OUR REF.: 8CL-7494 (GP1-0064) YOUR REF.: 09/682,286

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES SENT
(INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 4

COMMENTS: 1. Draft of Proposed Amendment (3 pages)

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8CL-7494
(GP1-0064)

DRAFT
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: BODEN et al.)
Serial No.: 09/682,286) Group Art Unit: 1626
Filed: 14 August 2001)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
PREPARING A DIALKYL CARBONATE,)
AND ITS USE IN THE PREPARATION)
OF DIARYL CARBONATES AND)
POLYCARBONATES)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Via Facsimile (703) 746-5116, Examiner Shameem
TC Group 1600
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This proposed amendment is submitted in response to the telephone conference between Examiner Shameem and Applicants' Agent J. Michael Buchanan earlier today (21 May 2002). The proposed amendment is for discussion purposes only and should not be entered without express approval of Applicants' Agent.

8CL-7494
(GP1-0064)

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CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDMENT

Please amend Claim 1 as follows in re-written "clean" format:

1. (Amended/Clean) A method of preparing a dialkyl carbonate, comprising:

reacting an alkanol, oxygen, carbon monoxide, and a catalyst to form a mixture comprising a dialkyl carbonate, an alkyl chloroformate, hydrochloric acid, water, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide; and

removing said alkyl chloroformate from said mixture by passing said mixture through a fluid passageway at a temperature of about 30°C to about 130°C and for a residence time of about 0.5 hour to about 10 hours.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

A marked-up version of Claim 1 follows:

1. (Amended/Marked-up) A method of preparing a dialkyl carbonate, comprising:

reacting an alkanol, oxygen, carbon monoxide, and a catalyst to form a mixture comprising a dialkyl carbonate, an alkyl chloroformate, hydrochloric acid, water, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide; and

removing said alkyl chloroformate from said mixture by passing said mixture through a fluid passageway at a temperature of about 30°C to about 130°C and for a residence time of about 0.5 hour to about 10 hours.